

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown below. This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A membership information retrieval server for retrieving membership information by accepting at least one retrieval condition from a group of user terminals, comprising:

a storage device for receiving the membership information from a group of users and storing the membership information ~~therein~~, the membership information ~~being~~ comprising user-entered text messages that are dynamically updated by the users and the membership information further comprising dynamically updated video game status information ~~entered into and sent from each of the user terminals~~;

a retrieval system that compares the at least one retrieval condition with the user-entered ~~entered~~ information and extracts selected membership information from the storage device; and

a communications system that sends the membership information extracted by the retrieval system to the user terminals from which the at least one retrieval condition are sent.

2. (Original) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a determination system that determines whether each of the group of the user terminals is currently online, wherein

the communications server imports the determination results into the membership information and then sends the membership information to the user terminal.

3. (Previously presented) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 2, wherein the membership information includes a user name of the member.

4. (Original) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 2, wherein the information sent to the retrieval server includes text information.

5. (Currently Amended) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 2, wherein membership information stored in the storage device is updated ~~whenever necessary from the user terminal being online~~ based on user input when one of the users desires to update as a result of changed circumstances.

6. (Previously presented) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 1, wherein the membership information includes a user name of the member.

7. (Original) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 6, wherein the information sent to the retrieval server includes text information.

8. (Currently Amended) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 6, wherein membership information stored in the storage device is updated ~~whenever necessary from the user terminal being online~~ based on user input when one of the users desires to update as a result of changed circumstances.

9. (Original) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information sent to the retrieval server includes text information.

10. (Original) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one retrieval condition include a character string and the retrieval system extracts membership information on the basis of the character string and the text information included in the membership information.

11. (Currently Amended) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 9, wherein the membership information in the storage device is updated based on user input when one of the users desires to update as a result of changed circumstances ~~whenever necessary from the user terminal when online~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 1, wherein the membership information in the storage device is updated based on user input when one of the users desires to update as a result of changed circumstances ~~whenever necessary from the user terminal when~~ online.

13. (Currently Amended) A user terminal for accessing the membership information retrieval server as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

a first sending system that enters at least one retrieval condition and sends the at least one retrieval condition to the retrieval server,

a display that displays the membership information sent from the retrieval server;

a creation system that accepts the selection of at least one member ~~a plurality of members~~ from the members in the membership information displayed by the display and creates a temporary user list that includes membership information about ~~at least one selected member~~ the plurality of selected members;

a first acceptance system that accepts entry of a message to be sent to a user terminal terminals to be used by ~~at least one member~~ the plurality of members listed in the temporary user list; and

a second sending system that sends the message accepted by the first acceptance system to the user terminals ~~terminal~~.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for sending a message, comprising:
receiving membership information about members sent from a group of user terminals by a server and storing the membership information in a storage device in the server, the membership information comprising user-entered text messages that are dynamically updated by the users and the membership information further comprising dynamically updated video game status information entered into and sent from each of the user terminals;

sending at least one retrieval condition to the server from one of the group of user terminals;

comparing the at least one retrieval condition with the dynamically updated user-entered information and determining selected membership information that matches the at least one retrieval condition;

extracting the selected membership information from the storage device and sending the extracted membership information to the user terminal that sent the at least one retrieval condition;

displaying the membership information sent from the server on a display of the user terminal, accepting the selection of ~~one or more~~ a plurality of members

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included in the displayed membership information to create a temporary user list that includes the membership information about ~~the one or more~~ a plurality of accepted members; and

sending a message entered in the user terminal to ~~the one or more~~ plurality of members in the created temporary user list.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving membership information by accepting at least one retrieval condition from a group of user terminals, comprising:

receiving membership information about members sent from a group of user terminals and storing the membership information in a storage device in the server, the membership information comprising user-entered text messages that are dynamically updated by the users and the membership information further comprising dynamically updated video game status information ~~entered into and sent from each of the user terminals;~~

comparing the at least one retrieval condition with the dynamically updated user-entered information and determining selected membership information that matches the at least one retrieval condition;

extracting the selected membership information; and

sending the extracted membership information from the server to the user terminals that sent the at least one retrieval condition.

17. (Original) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

determining whether each of the group of user terminals is online, wherein the server sends the membership information and the determination results.

18. (Previously presented) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 17, wherein the membership information includes a user name of the member.

19. (Original) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 17, wherein the sending information includes text information.

20. (Currently Amended) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 17, wherein the membership information to be stored in the storage device is updated based on user input when one of the users desires to update as a result of changed circumstances ~~whenever necessary from the user terminal being online.~~

21. (Previously Presented) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 17, wherein the membership information of the member includes a user name of the member.

22. (Original) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 21, wherein the sending information includes text.

23. (Currently Amended) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 21, wherein the membership information to be stored in the storage device is updated based on user input when one of the users desires to update as a result of changed circumstances ~~whenever necessary from the user terminal being online.~~

24. (Original) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 17, wherein the sending information includes text.

25. (Original) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 24, wherein the at least one retrieval condition include a character string and the server extracts membership information on the basis of the character string and the text information included in the membership information.

26. (Currently Amended) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 24, wherein the membership information to be stored in the storage device is updated based on user input when one of the users desires to update as a result of changed circumstances ~~whenever necessary from the user terminal being online.~~

27. (Previously presented) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 16, wherein the membership information of the member includes a user name of the member.

28. (Currently Amended) The method for retrieving membership information as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

 sending the at least one retrieval condition entered by the input system to the retrieval server,

 displaying the membership information sent from the retrieval server on a display;

 accepting the selection of ~~at least one member~~ a plurality of members from the members in the displayed membership information on the display and creating a temporary user list that includes membership information about ~~at least one selected member~~ the plurality of selected members;

 accepting entry of a message to be sent to user terminals of the plurality of members ~~a user terminal to be used by at least one member~~ listed in the temporary user list; and

 sending the accepted message.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A recording medium, storing a readable program, wherein the program executes:

 receiving membership information about members sent from a group of user terminals to store in a storage device of a server, the membership information comprising user-entered text messages that are dynamically updated

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by the users and the membership information further comprising dynamically
updated video game status information ~~entered by users at the user terminals~~;

sending at least one retrieval condition to the server from one of the group
of user terminals;

comparing the at least one retrieval condition with the dynamically updated
user-entered information to determine selected membership information that
matches the at least one retrieval condition;

extracting the selected membership information from the storage device
and sending the extracted membership information to the user terminal that sent
the at least one retrieval condition;

displaying the membership information sent from the server on displays of
the user terminals, accepting selection of a plurality of members included in the
displayed membership information to create a temporary user list that includes
the membership information about the selected members; and

sending a message entered in the user terminal to the members in the
created temporary user list.

31. (Canceled)